

The Harpenden Trust

Christmas 2010

THE TRUST IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

In last year's newsletter we asked Harpenden residents to support our annual appeal because our investment income had been substantially reduced as a result of the reduction in investment returns.

This you did magnificently by producing a record £28,000, for which the Trust is extremely grateful. We thought the people of Harpenden would like to see where our money was spent in our last financial year, and this is shown on the right.

In the current economic climate we believe there will be even more demand for help from the community for our services and that of other charities: the Harpenden Trust is gearing itself up to meet this demand.

We are closely looking at ways of enhancing our current services and developing new ones.

For this reason we are still very reliant on our annual Christmas Appeal and are looking once again to the people of Harpenden to be generous when our familiar envelope comes through the letterbox in December.

We know that there are many other demands on family finances at Christmas time, but we would ask you to remember the Harpenden Trust and be as generous as you can when our Christmas collectors call. If we could increase our collection this year, it would enable us to do more for the people of Harpenden.

Some of the ways your money helped individuals in Harpenden last year.

£21,500	for individual and family grants
£10,500	for assistance with utility bills
£4,500	on pensioner outings
£1,000	on youth outings
£1,000	on Christmas parcels
£12,000	on grants for vocational outings for schoolchildren

Please help us this Christmas

During December, our distinctive purple and white envelope will drop through the letterboxes of most homes in the town. Please don't ignore it. The Christmas Appeal provides a significant part of our total income, and without your donations we would certainly have to cut back on our activities. Also, please complete the Gift Aid Declaration on the back of the envelope. If you do, we can claim back a further 28% from the Government.

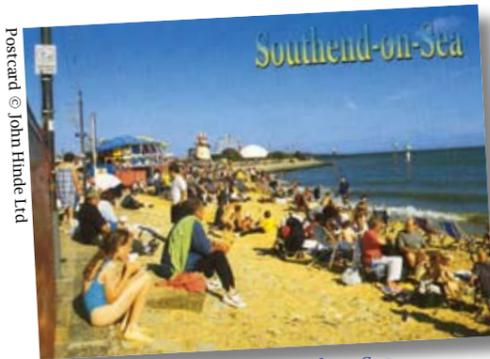
One of our collectors will call for the envelope. If you are out when he or she calls, please drop it in at the Trust Centre in Southdown, Barclays Bank in the High Street, or Jelley's Meats at 97 Luton Road.



INSIDE: Grove House, Girl Guides, and one man and his van



OUTINGS FOR YOUNG AND OLD



Happy memories of Southend-on-Sea

Adventure Island — a big hit for families!

One August morning 54 children and 26 parents along with helpers piled into coaches in Batford and Southdown for our annual children's outing. Our destination was Adventure Island on Southend promenade. Once

we had acquired our blue or green wrist bands it was off to the thrills of "Skydrop" and "Dragons Claw", the frights of "Over the Hill", or the more gentle "Big Wheel" and "Choo Train". Later, everyone had time on the beach watching the tide come in. Five hours later a weary, happy group climbed onto the coaches for the return to Harpenden, with many memories to carry with them through the summer.

Clacton here we come!

Our pensioners' summer outings to the Esplanade Hotel in Clacton continue to be extremely popular. This year we have taken 140 Senior Citizens there for lunch, a stroll on the promenade (weather permitting) and tea-time entertainment. For many, just the opportunity to go on a trip to the coast is welcome, but it is the

company of others that some of our clients value most.

For those not able to manage a full day's outing, lunch at the Sun Hotel and shopping in Hitchin was the destination again this year. Another group of 40, unable to go on the trips, were entertained to tea at the Trust Centre in the autumn.

Every spring, Harpenden Trust volunteers visit over 300 of our senior clients to check their needs and provide a vital link to our other services. If you have elderly relatives or neighbours whom you think could be added to our lists for trips or assistance please contact the Trust Centre. Transport to and from the Trust Centre for these outings is provided by volunteer drivers. If you are willing to help out with transport call the Trust Centre — it would only be once or twice a year!

GROVE HOUSE HOSPICE AT HOME NURSING IN HARPENDEN

The Harpenden Trust has given total grants of £30,000 towards launching Grove House's Hospice at Home nursing in Harpenden.

Grove House Hospice at Home started work in Harpenden in September 2009 with a day-time service. In January 2010 the service extended to 24-hour cover. Their nurses are often able to respond rapidly to a crisis, initially with telephone advice and wherever necessary with a home visit.

- To date 37 patients have been cared for at home in Harpenden.
- Three-quarters of Harpenden patients were able to end their life in the comfort of their own homes. The majority of cancer patients in the year before the service started were not able to have this choice and died in hospital often miles from Harpenden.
- At present Grove House nurses are caring for ten patients in Harpenden.

- As well as those with cancer the hospice also helps other patients, including those with advanced motor neurone disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

This is what it meant for one family: "I can honestly say it made a huge difference to the whole family to have John at home during the last few days of his life. It can be very daunting nursing someone you love through a terminal illness. It gave us confidence to know that we could pick up the phone — even at four in the morning — and there would always be someone there who could help."

Maintaining 24-hour care

The support from The Harpenden Trust has been crucial to Grove House's success in helping people with terminal illness in the town to have as comfortable an end to their lives as they and their families could hope for.

At present, 24-hour care is only possible thanks to the help of Iain Rennie nurses 'on loan' from Dacorum, but this can only be a short-term solution until we can find more funding and more nurses of our own.

To be able to sustain the 24-hour service across the whole of Harpenden, Grove House needs to raise more

funding. It can then recruit more nurses, who will be able to help more patients and their families at a time when they are often quite desperate and frightened.

The Harpenden Trust continues to help community organisations and charities located in the AL5 postal district, or with particular links to Harpenden.

ON YER BIKE!

A reminder of how the Trust has served the community for over 60 years occurred this summer when Ray Brown popped into the centre. Ray now lives in New Zealand, but in his youth he lived in Hyde View Road in Harpenden. His father's name was John Henry Brown.

Ray started his first job as an apprentice around 1961 and was given some money by a Harpenden charity which enabled him to buy some tools and a bike for riding to work. He wondered if it was The Harpenden Trust which had given him the money. Sadly, our records do not go back that far, but it is just the kind of grant the Trust was giving out at that time — it gave Ray a good start to his working life.



Harpenden Girl Guides enjoying the centenary celebrations camp

HELPING YOUTH GROUPS

Once again The Harpenden Trust has helped over 60 pupils in Harpenden schools go on school visits that their parents had been unable fully to finance. These grants enable young people to gain extra knowledge for their curriculum courses or participate in educational experiences with their classmates away from school.

This year, the Trust made a donation towards helping Harpenden scouts attend the World Scout Jamboree in Rinkaby in Sweden next summer.

The 9th Harpenden Girl Guides also benefitted from the Trust's generosity in 2010, which is the centenary of the Girl Guide Association. With the donation made by the Trust they were able to buy three new tents and send nine girls to join 800 Guides from all over the county for the week-long Hertfordshire centenary camp.

We continued grants for Young Enterprise and the Life Skills and Drug Awareness programme sponsored by the Harpenden Lions Club.

Also on our agenda this year was helping to finance the new Porter's Hill play area off Pickford Hill in Batford.

If you would like to find out more information about the work of The Harpenden Trust, visit our website at www.theharpendentrust.org.uk.

Look out for our envelope



“TO HELP IN MONEY OR IN KIND ANY RESIDENT ...”

“To help in money or in kind any residents of Harpenden and district who may be in need, particularly anyone who is ill or old or suffering hardship.”

This was one of the main aims of the Harpenden Trust when it was set up over 60 years ago, and it still holds true today. Throughout the year a team of dedicated volunteers visit people in their homes to assess their needs and provide them with advice, support and financial help. Here are some examples of people who have been helped by the Trust over the past year.

A full and active life

Andrew is a remarkable young man. Despite being wheelchair-bound with carers looking after him 24/7, he has graduated from university and is about to embark on a career in London. He is now living in Harpenden, and the Trust has helped by providing him with a washing machine, a cooker and furniture. The Trust has put Andrew in touch with a young boy from Harpenden, who was finding it difficult to come to terms with his illness. Andrew has shown him that despite his difficulties it is possible to lead a full and active life.

Helping with the bills

When Angela came to the Trust for help she was anxious and exhausted. When her 95-year-old father became bedridden, she had enlisted the help of agency carers. The Trust eased the financial burden by helping with utility bills and providing food vouchers.

Care in time of need

Edith is a widow and a pensioner and when her son died in America earlier this year, she had to use her life savings to have his ashes flown back to this country. She received no help because he died outside the EU, so the Trust made a donation towards her expenses.

Mutual support

Nine-year-old Maria was recently diagnosed with a serious disease after a lengthy stay in hospital. During this time, Maria's mother had to pay for

child care for her other children and expensive train fares to and from the hospital. When Maria came home from hospital there was no food in the house and she had special dietary needs which were expensive. The Trust has helped with costs and put Maria and her family in touch with another Harpenden family whose daughter suffers from the same condition, thus providing both families with a mutual support system.

Help with translation

Chang Liu moved from China to Harpenden earlier this year. She spoke very little English and felt very isolated. The Trust managed to find a Chinese speaker locally to act as a translator and start teaching her English.

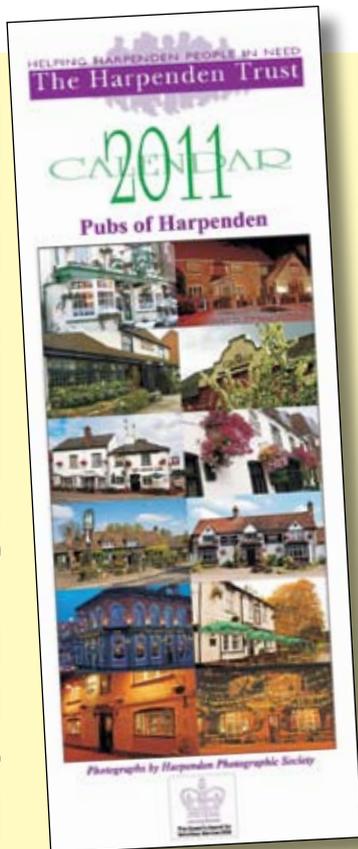
Responding to a crisis

John and Doreen turned to the Trust for help and support when door-step comen stole pension savings of £500 from their kitchen drawer. The Trust immediately put them in touch with the Safe Project and provided them with food vouchers and help with utility bills.

Our home visitors work hard “to help in money or in kind any residents of Harpenden who may be in need”. It's demanding work and the Trust's volunteers give their time willingly. But it can be expensive too, and this is where your donation helps.

Real names have not been used in this article.

2011 CALENDAR



£4 inc envelope

Now available from
The Harpenden Trust Centre and
Harpenden Town Hall

All proceeds will go to the work
of The Harpenden Trust

A MAN AND HIS VAN

Each week Simon Creedy and some of his team of five helpers set off in The Harpenden Trust van to collect unwanted furniture and electrical goods from the residents of Harpenden. The electrical goods are then given a safety check and repaired, if necessary, by a qualified electrician. In due course they and items of furniture are delivered to the needy of Harpenden, usually clients of our home visitors.

As an example, one client was recently re-housed by the local council and arrived in Harpenden with very little furniture. The Trust was able to provide him with a table and some chairs, a bed, a carpet, a fridge, a vacuum cleaner, an iron and ironing board, a toaster and a wardrobe. An electric cooker is still required, but donations of cookers have been rather scarce of late. If you have an electric cooker to spare, please contact us as we have six clients who are waiting for one.

The Trust has been providing this service to the community for 18 years — last year we dealt with 160 items, 55 of which were electrical goods.

If you have any unwanted

furniture or electrical appliances to donate, please contact us. If these goods are of use to us we will arrange to have them collected. Electric goods require a PAT (portable appliance test), and certain items of furniture such as sofas, armchairs and mattresses must have an approved fire certificate.



Simon and two of the team head off to deliver to a Harpenden household



THE BEST VALUE VENUE IN TOWN ...

If you want value for money and a great venue you need look no further than The Harpenden Trust Centre in Southdown Road. There are two bright and airy halls (both recently refurbished), with disabled access, modern lighting and new floors. The larger Renwick Hall can accommodate

80 people seated and 120 standing. The smaller Randall Hall has space for 40 people seated or 50 standing.

Both rooms are ideal for dance and exercise classes, club meetings, educational use, tea parties, children's parties, quiz nights and charity events on either a one-off or regular basis.

There is also a fully-equipped kitchen complete with crockery and utensils and recently refurbished toilets, including one for the disabled.

If you are interested in hiring or viewing the halls please contact The Harpenden Trust Centre (see contact details below).

HOW TO CONTACT US

Ring us on **01582 460457** anytime. If the office is unmanned, you can leave a message and we will phone you back.

E-mail us at admin@theharpendentrust.org.uk

Call in and see us at the Trust Centre between 10am and noon, Monday to Thursday.

Write to us at: **The Harpenden Trust,
The Harpenden Trust Centre, 90 Southdown
Road, Harpenden AL5 1PS.**



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service
2008**



The Harpenden Trust

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